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**UNDERHAND**. *adj.* Secret; clandestine; sly.  
I had notice of my brother's purpose, and have, by *underhand* means, laboured to dissuade him. *Shakespeare.*  
I should take it as a very great favour from some of my *underhand* detractors, if they would break all measures with me. *Addison's Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup>. 262.  
**UNDERLABOURER**. *n. f.* [under and labourer.] A subordinate workman.  
About the carriage of one stone for Amasis, the distance of twenty days journey, for three years were employed two thousand chosen men, governors, besides many *underlabourers*. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*  
**UNDERLIVED**. *adj.* [from *derived*.] Not borrowed.  
The ideas it is busied about should be, sometimes at least, those more congenial ones, which it had in itself, *underlived* from the body. *Locke.*  
To **UNDERLAY**. *v. a.* [under and lay.] To strengthen by something laid under.  
**UNDERLEAF**. *n. f.* [under and leaf.] A species of apple. See *APPLE.*  
The *underleaf*, whose cyder is best at two years, is a plentiful bearer. *Mortimer's Art of Husbandry.*  
To **UNDERLINE**. *v. a.* [under and line.] To mark with lines below the words.  
By meer chance in appearance, though *underlined* with a providence, they had a full sight of the infants. *Wotton.*  
**UNDERLING**. *n. f.* [from *nuder*.] An inferior agent; a sordid, mean fellow.  
The great men, by ambition never satisfied, grew factious; and the *underlings*, glad indeed to be *underlings* to them they hated least, to preserve them from such they hated most. *Sidney.*  
Hereby the heads of the Septs are made stronger, whom it should be a most special policy to weaken, and to set up and strengthen divers of their *underlings* against them. *Spenser.*  
The fault is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are *underlings*. *Shakespeare.*  
O'er all his brethren he shall reign as king,  
Yet every one shall make him *underling*. *Milton.*  
They may print this letter, if the *underlings* at the post-office take a copy of it. *Pepe and Swift.*  
A sort of *underling* auxiliaries to the difficulty of a work, are commentators and critics, who frighten many by their number and bulk.  
To **UNDERMINE**. *v. a.* [under and mine.]  
1. To dig cavities under any thing, so that it may fall, or be blown up; to sap.  
Though the foundation on a rock were laid,  
The church was *undermin'd* and then betray'd. *Denham.*  
An injudicious endeavour to exalt Virgil, is much the same, as if one should think to raise the superstructure by *undermining* the foundation. *Pepe's Preface to the Iliad.*  
2. To excavate under.  
A vast rock *undermin'd* from one end to the other, and a highway running through it, as long and as broad as the mall. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
3. To injure by clandestine means.  
Making the king's sword strike whom they hated, the king's purse reward whom they loved; and, which is worst of all, making the royal countenance serve to *undermine* the royal sovereignty. *Sidney.*  
They, knowing Eleanor's aspiring humour,  
Have hir'd me to *undermine* the dutchess. *Shakespeare.*  
The father secure,  
Ventures his filial virtue,  
Against what'er may tempt, what'er seduce,  
Allure or terrify, or *undermine*. *Milton.*  
The *undermining* smile becomes habitual; and the drift of his plausible conversation, is only to flatter one, that he may betray another. *Dryden.*  
He should be warn'd who are like to *undermine* him, and who to serve him. *Locke on Education.*  
**UNDERMINER**. *n. f.* [from *undermine*.]  
1. He that saps; he that digs away the supports.  
The enemies and *underminers* thereof are Romish Catholics. *Bacon.*  
2. A clandestine enemy.  
When I perceiv'd all set on enmity,  
As on my enemies, where-ever chance'd,  
I us'd hostility, and took their spoil,  
To pay my *underminers* in their coin. *Milton's Agonistes.*  
The most experienced disturbers and *underminers* of government, have always laid their first train in contempt, endeavouring to blow it up in the judgment and esteem of the subject. *South's Sermons.*  
**UNDERMOST**. *adj.* [This is a kind of superlative, anomalously formed from *under*.]  
1. Lowest in place.  
Using oil of almonds, we drew up with the *undermost* stone a much greater weight. *Boyle.*  
2. Lowest in state or condition.  
It happens well for the party that is *undermost*, when a work

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of this nature falls into the hands of those, who content themselves to attack their principles, without exposing their persons. *Addison's Freeholder*, N<sup>o</sup>. 19.  
This opinion, taken up by other sectaries, was to last no longer than they were *undermost*. *Attorney.*  
**UNDERNEATH**. *adv.* [Compounded from *under* and *neath*; of which we still retain the comparative *neither*, but in adverbial sense use *beneath*.] In the lower place; below; under; beneath.  
Forthwith up to the clouds  
With him I flew, and *underneath* beheld  
The earth outstretch'd immense, a prospect wide. *Milton.*  
And as I awake, sweet music breathe  
Above, about, or *underneath*;  
Sent by some spirit to mortals good.  
Or fullen Mole that runneth *underneath*;  
Or Severn swift, guilty of maidens death. *Milton.*  
The monster caught in open day,  
Inclos'd, and in despair to fly away,  
Howls horrible from *underneath*. *Dryden.*  
The late did not lie flat upon it, but left a free passage *underneath*. *Addison.*  
**UNDERNEATH**. *prep.* Under.  
Fellows in arms,  
Bruis'd *underneath* the yoke of tyranny,  
Thus far into the bowels of the land  
Have we march'd on.  
Pray God, she prove not masculine ere long!  
If *underneath* the standard of the French  
She carry armour, as she hath begun. *Shakespeare's Hen. VI.*  
*Underneath* this stone doth lie,  
As much beauty as could die;  
Which in life did harbour give,  
To more virtue than could live. *B. Johnson.*  
What is, hath been; what hath been shall ensue;  
And nothing *underneath* the sun is new. *Sandys's Paraphrase.*  
The north and south, and each contending blast,  
Are *underneath* his wide dominion call. *Dryden.*  
**UNDEROFFICER**. *n. f.* [under and officer.] An inferior officer; one in subordinate authority.  
This certificate of excommunication by bishops, of all others, is most in use; and would be more so, were it not for the manifold abuses about its execution committed by *underofficers*. *Ascham's Parergon.*  
To **UNDERPIN**. *v. a.* [under and pin.] To prop; to support.  
Victors, to secure themselves against disputes of that kind, *underpin* their acquit *jure belli*. *Hale's Common Law.*  
**UNDERROGATORY**. *adj.* Not derogatory.  
Of our happiness the apostle gives a negative description; and to create in us apprehensions *underrogatory* from what we shall possess, exalts them above all that we can fancy. *Boyle.*  
**UNDERPART**. *n. f.* [under and part.] Subordinate, or unessential part.  
The English will not bear a thorough tragedy, but are pleased that it should be lightened with *underparts* of mirth. *Dryden.*  
**UNDERPETTICOAT**. *n. f.* [under and petticoat.] The petticoat worn next the body.  
They go to bed as tired with doing nothing, as I after quilting a whole *under-petticoat*. *Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup>. 66b.  
**UNDERPLOT**. *n. f.* [under and plot.]  
1. A series of events proceeding collaterally with the main story of a play, and subservient to it.  
In a tragedy, there is to be but one main design; and though there be an *underplot*, yet it is subservient to the chief fable. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*  
2. A clandestine scheme.  
The husband is so misled by tricks, and so lost in a crooked intrigue, that he still suspects an *underplot*. *Addison.*  
To **UNDERPRAISE**. *v. a.* [under and praise.] To praise below desert.  
In *underpraising* thy deserts,  
Here find the first deficiency of our tongue. *Dryden.*  
To **UNDERPRIZE**. *v. a.* [under and prize.] To value at less than the worth.  
How far  
The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow  
In *underprizing* it; so far this shadow  
Doth limp behind the substance. *Shakespeare's*  
To **UNDERPROP**. *v. a.* [under and prop.] To support; to sustain.  
Here am I left to *underprop* the land, *Shakespeare.*  
Who, weak with age, cannot support myself.  
There was made a flooring or *underprop* ad for the benevolence; to make the fums not brought in, to be leviable by course of law. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*  
Thou that art us'd to attend the royal throne,  
And *underprop* the head that bears the crown. *Finck.*  
**UNDERPROPORTIONED**. *adj.* [under and proportion.] Having too little proportion.  
To be haughty, and to make scanty and *underproportioned* returns of civility, plainly tells people, they must be very mannerly. *Cellier on Pride.*  
**UNDERPULLER**.

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**UNDERPULLER**. *n. f.* [under and puller.] Inferiour or subordinate puller.  
The mystery of seconds and thirds is such a master-piece, that no description can reach. These *underpullers* in destruction are such implicit mortals as are not to be matched. *Cellier.*  
To **UNDERRATE**. *v. a.* [under and rate.] To rate too low.  
**UNDERSTATE**. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A price less than is usual.  
The useless brute is from Newmarket brought,  
And at an *underrate* in Smithfield bought, *Dryden.*  
To turn a mill.  
To **UNDERSEAY**. *v. n.* [under and seay.] To say by way of derogation. Not in use.  
They say, they con to heaven the highway;  
But I dare *underseay*.  
They never set foot on that same trode,  
But balk the right way, and strain abroad. *Spenser.*  
**UNDERSCRETARY**. *n. f.* [under and secretary.] An inferior or subordinate secretary.  
The Jews have a tradition, that Elias sits in heaven, and keeps a register of all men's actions, good or bad. He hath his *underscretaries* for the several nations, that takes minutes of all that passes. *Bacon's Theory of the Earth.*  
To **UNDERSELL**. *v. a.* [under and sell.] To defeat, by selling for less; to sell cheaper than another.  
Their stock being rated at six in the hundred, they may, with great gain, *undersell* us, our stock being rated at ten. *Child's Discourse of Trade.*  
**UNDERSERVANT**. *n. f.* [under and servant.] A servant of the lower class.  
Besides the nerves, the bones, as *underservants*, with the muscles, are employed to raise him up. *Grew's Cosmology.*  
To **UNDERSET**. *v. a.* [under and set.] To prop; to support.  
The merchant-adventurers, being a strong company, and well *underset* with rich men, and good order, held out bravely. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*  
**UNDERTETER**. *n. f.* [from *under set*.] Prop; pedestal; support.  
The four corners thereof had *undersetters*. *1 Kings vii. 30.*  
**UNDERSETTING**. *n. f.* [from *under set*.] Lower part; pedestal.  
Their *undersettings*, or pedestals, are, in height, a third part of the column. *Watson's Architecture.*  
**UNDERSHERIFF**. *n. f.* [under and sheriff.] The deputy of the sheriff.  
Since 'tis my doom, love's *undershrieve*,  
Why this reprieve?  
Why doth my fine adownson fly? *Cleveland's Poem.*  
**UNDERSHERIFF**. *n. f.* [from *undersheriff*.] The business, or office of an *undersheriff*.  
The cardinals of Rome call all temporal business, of wars and embassages, *sherrifries*, which is *undersheriffries*; as if they were but matters for *undersheriffs* and catchpoles; though many times those *undersheriffries* do more good than their high speculations. *Bacon.*  
**UNDERSHOOT**. *part. adj.* [under and shoot.] Moved by water passing under it.  
The imprisoned water payeth the ransom of driving an *undershoot* wheel for his enlargement. *Carew's Surv. of Cornwall.*  
**UNDERSONG**. *n. f.* [under and song.] Chorus; burthen of a song.  
So ended the; and all the rest around  
To her reboiled that her *undersong*. *Spenser.*  
The challenge to Dametas shall belong;  
Each in his turn your tuneless numbers bring. *Dryden.*  
To **UNDERSTAND**. *v. a.* preterite *understood*. [unversytan, Saxon.]  
1. To comprehend fully; to have knowledge of.  
The Ulysses of Ovid upbraids his ignorance, that he *understood* not the shield for which he pleaded. *Dryden.*  
2. To conceive.  
His sin might have been greater in that respect: but that it was not so to be *understood*, appears by the opposition. *Stillingfleet.*  
The most learned interpreters *understood* the words of sin, and not of Abel. *Locke.*  
To **UNDERSTAND**. *v. n.*  
1. To have use of the intellectual faculties; to be an intelligent or conscious being.  
I have given thee a wife and *understanding* heart. *Chronicles.*  
2. To be informed.  
I *understood* of the evil Elias did.  
I *understand* by Sanga, you have been  
Solicited against the commonwealth  
By one Umbrenus. *B. Johnson's Cataline.*  
All my soul be  
Imprais'd in you, in whom alone  
I *understand*, and grow, and see. *Donne.*  
**UNDERSTANDING**. *n. f.* [from *understand*.]  
1. Intellectual powers; faculties of the mind, especially those of knowledge and judgment.

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I speak as my *understanding* instructs me, and as mine honesty puts it to utterance. *Shakespeare's Winter Tale.*  
Make him of quick *understanding* in the fear of the Lord. *Isaiah.*  
It maketh day-light *understanding*, out of darkness. *Bacon.*  
When the rates things, and moves from ground to ground,  
The name of reason she obtains by this:  
But when by reason she the truth hath found,  
And standeth fix'd, the *understanding* is. *Darwin.*  
Life and sense,  
Fancy and *understanding*: whence the soul  
Reason receives, and reason is her being. *Milton.*  
God is to the *understanding* of man, as the light of the sun is to our eyes, its first and most glorious object. *Tillotson.*  
2. Skill.  
The *understandings* of a senate are often enflav'd by three or four leaders. *Swift.*  
Right *understanding* consists in the perception of the visible or probable agreement or disagreement of ideas. *Locke.*  
Very mean people have raised their minds to a great sense and *understanding* of religion. *Locke.*  
3. Intelligence; terms of communication.  
He hoped the loyalty of his subjects would concur with him in the preserving of a good *understanding* between him and his people. *Clarendon.*  
We have got into some *understanding* with the enemy, by means of Don Diego. *Arbutnot.*  
**UNDERSTANDING**. *adj.* Knowing; skilful.  
The present physician is a very *understanding* man, and well read. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
**UNDERSTANDINGLY**. *adv.* [from *understand*.] With knowledge.  
Sundays may be *understandingly* spent in theology. *Milton.*  
**UNDERSTOOD**. *pret. and part. passive of understand.*  
**UNDERSTRAPPER**. *n. f.* [under and strap.] A petty fellow; an inferior agent.  
Every *understrapper* perk'd up, and expected a regiment, or his son must be a major. *Swift.*  
To **UNDERTAKE**. *v. a.* preterite *undertook*; participle passive *undertaken*. [unversytan, German.]  
1. To attempt; to engage in.  
The talk he *undertakes*  
Is numbring sands, and drinking oceans dry. *Shakespeare.*  
Hence our generous emulation came;  
We *undertook*, and we perform'd the same. *Rescommon.*  
Fiercer than cannon, and than rocks more hard,  
The English *undertake* th' unequal war. *Dryden.*  
Of dangers *undertaken*, fame achiev'd,  
They talk by turns. *Dryden.*  
2. To assume a character. Not in use.  
His name and credit shall you *undertake*;  
And in my house you shall be friendly lodg'd. *Shakespeare.*  
3. To engage with; to attack.  
It is not fit your lordship should *undertake* every companion, that you give offence to. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*  
You'll *undertake* her no more?  
4. To have the charge of.  
To th' water-side I must conduct your grace,  
Then give my charge up to Sir Nicholas Vaux,  
Who *undertakes* you to your end. *Shakespeare's Hen. VIII.*  
To **UNDERTAKE**. *v. n.*  
1. To assume any business or province.  
O Lord, I am oppress'd, *undertake* for me. *Isa. xxxviii. 34.*  
I *undertook* alone to wing th' abyss. *Addison.*  
2. To venture; to hazard.  
It is the cowardly terror of his spirit,  
That dare not *undertake*. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*  
3. To promise; to stand bound to some condition.  
If the curious search the hills after rains, I dare *undertake* they will not lose their labour. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*  
**UNDERTAKER**. *part. passive of undertake.*  
**UNDERTAKER**. *n. f.* [from *undertake*.]  
1. One who engages in projects and affairs.  
Antrim was naturally a great *undertaker*. *Clarendon.*  
*Undertakers* in Rome purchase the digging of fields, and arrive at great estates by it. *Addison.*  
This serves to free the enquiry from the perplexities that some *undertakers* have encumber'd it with. *Woodward.*  
Oblige thy fav'rite *undertakers*  
To throw me in but twenty acres. *Prior.*  
2. One who engages to build for another at a certain price.  
Should they build as fast as write,  
'Twould ruin *undertakers* quite. *Swift's Miscellany.*  
3. One who manages funerals.  
**UNDERTAKING**. *n. f.* [from *undertake*.] Attempt; enterprize; engagement.  
Mighty men they are called; which streweth a strength surpassing others: and men of renown, that is, of great *undertaking* and adventurous actions. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*  
If this seem too great an *undertaking* for the humour of our age, then such a sum of money ought to lie ready for taking off all such pieces of cloth as shall be brought in. *Temple.*